

Serial No. 09/618,797

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A canned ceramic honeycomb structure, comprising:

a metal case;

a ceramic honeycomb structure not loaded with a catalyst and contained within said metal case;

a holding material located between said ceramic honeycomb structure and said metal case, said holding material and said metal case having a common longitudinal direction, wherein the holding material has at least one peripheral edge defining at least one edge plane perpendicular to said longitudinal direction; and an a combustible impermeable layer located on said at least one edge plane, said combustible impermeable layer being provided between said ceramic honeycomb structure and said metal case.

2. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein the length of said combustible impermeable layer is not greater than 10 mm.

3. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein plane pressure properties of said combustible impermeable layer are not greater than those of said holding material.

4. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said ceramic honeycomb structure has a second edge plane, and said at least one edge plane of said holding material having said combustible impermeable layer located thereon and said second edge plane of said ceramic honeycomb structure are substantially in common.

5. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said combustible impermeable layer comprises an a combustible impermeable material adhered to said holding material along said at least one edge plane of the holding material.

Serial No. 09/618,797

6. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said combustible impermeable layer is a thin film.

7. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said combustible impermeable layer comprises a rope having one of a circular, quadrangular, or arbitrary cross-section.

8. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said combustible impermeable layer comprises resin selected from the group consisting of plastic, rubber, paper, cloth, and fiber.

9. (Currently Amended) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said combustible impermeable layer comprises a portion located adjacent said at least one edge plane of said holding material, said portion being impregnated with combustible impermeable matter selected from the group consisting of oils and fats.

Serial No. 09/618,797

10. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein the partition thickness of said ceramic honeycomb structure is not greater than 0.10 mm.

11. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to Claim 1, wherein said holding material comprises a non-intumescent ceramic fiber mat.

12. to 13. (Canceled)